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portant guests do they bake fresh bread and prepare some sort of meal. If a Rwejli has a piece of dry bread, *ḫomš*, and can soak it in water, he boasts of having eaten well. Breakfast is unknown to the Rwala. In order to loosen the spittle, *fekk ar-rīḳ*, they eat a grain of salt, a morsel of bread, or gulp down some milk. This is their usual breakfast, *ṣubûḥ* (*eṣṭebeḥ*, take thy breakfast). On long marches they can keep going with this breakfast until evening, because they have no luncheon. The Rwala know that they will eat only after sunset and are grateful to Allâh if he gives them a chance of eating their fill at least once a week. Often there is not even a cup of cold *leben*, sour milk, for supper. Suppers of this kind, at which only a little milk is drunk, are called *ṭabûḳ*.

MILK AND METHODS OF PROCURING IT

Milk is the main nourishment of the Rwala. In order to secure a supply of milk for a whole year they make use of various devices.

If a young camel is weak they kill it as soon as it is born, and for seven days, *samḥ lejâl*, they do not milk, *jeṭarzûha*, the female camel, so that she loses her milk, *w-hi ṭarez*. In this way she becomes strong and can carry loads. If they have insufficient milk, they gently stroke, *jemsaḥûha*, her udder morning and evening, and after a few days the milk flows again. If they have a sucking camel, they lead it to her; in order that she may let it suck, they draw her nostrils together with a rope, *jeḥazmû ḥaśmaha bel-'aḳâl*, or thrust a long, strong needle, *maḫjaṭ*, through her nostrils. Thus they deceive the female camel, *jeṭîrûn 'alejha ẓijâr*, who cannot smell the calf tied to her, becomes friendly with it, *ṭarâm*, and lets it have milk, *ṭaderr*.

Sometimes they remove the newly-born calf, *ǧarraw laha*, before the female camel notices and smells it. Then they kill it, tie up the female camel, and fasten to her an older calf, which they smear with a little blood from the calf that has been killed. The female camel licks it, makes friends with it, *rimat*, and lets it suck. In this way one calf sucks two female camels. This method is called *ǧerâr*. Often they kill five and even seven young camels, and to all the female camels they bring the same calf, and all of them let it suck. This is called *meǧamma'a*. The female camel which gives the least milk they

234 leave to the calf, but on the udders of the rest they place thick nets, *šamle*, tied across the hip and under the tail, or they fasten to every nipple a firm peg sharpened at both ends so that the young cannot suck.

When they wish to milk, they remove the net or the pegs, *jabhelúnaha*, call the calf, and wait until the milk flows. The female camel gives most milk in the morning. As soon as her left forefoot is untied she rises and the young camel runs up; it is then possible to milk. The owner calls the herdsman from the tent: "Such and such a camel has risen yonder, milk her; *jâ flân an-nâḳa al-flâne ṭârat ehlebha*." The milker stands on the left side, the calf tries to suck from the right. The camel gives her milk when she sees that the young one is approaching the udder, *'aṭṭafat an-nâḳa 'a'a waladha*; this is called *ta'ṭîf* or *jiḥenn al-ḳalb 'alá-l-ḳalb*. The milker does not hasten; he holds the nipple with three fingers, pressing with the thumb, without pulling; the pressure makes the milk spurt in a strong jet, *šuḫḫ*, into a wooden vessel, *žedaḥ*. During the milking the calf has to be soothed and the female camel appeased, which the milker does by calling her name, for instance: "*Hêj jâ 'alija hêj jâ 'alija*." If the calf runs away, the female camel withholds the milk, *fawwatat an-náḳa*.

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FIG. 20—A water trough, *ḥaw*; (see p. 71).

If a traveler wishes to drink quickly, he milks into his hand; otherwise they always milk into a wooden pot, *žedaḥ*, or small leather pouch, *šakwa*. The milker takes care that the milk does not splash on the ground, which would mean an unnecessary loss. Anyone who squanders something useful or necessary is compared to a milker who lets the milk flow on the ground, and there is a saying: "The jet of milk did not splash into my hand or into the pot, *šuḫḫen ṭafaḥ lâ bidi w-lâ bel-žedaḥ*." From one female camel the amount of milk which can be obtained each day is from one to seven liters. The better the pasture, especially when it consists of

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good annuals, the more milk is given. The fertile camel gives milk for twelve months, the barren camel for even longer. After a year the she-camel is conducted to the male. If she conceives, she loses the milk and bites and kicks her calf when it tries to suck. 234

The calf generally ceases to suck after a year, but many wish to continue even after that. Such calves are known as *ʿabeṭ*. In order that a calf of this sort may not steal milk, a sharpened peg, *ḥelâl*, is inserted under its nostrils, and if it attempts to suck the peg pricks the female camel, so that she at once drives the calf away.

FIG. 21—A water trough, *ḥauṿ* (see p. 71).

The milk is either drunk warm immediately after it has been obtained, *maḥaṿ* or is heated, *saḫîn*. The freshly obtained milk is called *ḥalîb*. If it is poured, *jeḥaḳnûneh*, into a leather bag, *semîl*, it is called *leben*, even though it may still be sweet. In the bag it becomes sour very quickly, *jeṭaʿʿam* (or *mṭaʿʿam*). The Rwala do not churn camel's milk. If they have too much, they boil it and from the curds make small cheeses which they eat either dry or stewed with bread. 262 234 272

A milking camel is called *ḥallâba*. It is not sold at any price, as it nourishes the whole family. Every Rwejli is fond of milk, either fresh or sour. Those who cannot get accustomed to it are given the nickname of *feḳ*. The Rwala woman reminds her daughter of the white *leben* as soon as she wakes her in the morning, exclaiming: "O my daughter, white as milk! why art thou idle like the gazelle, taking thy ease until the dew has departed? *já bunajje já leben wuẓḥaʾ wo-alyzejjel bel-mendîm aẓḥaʾ*." The freshly obtained milk has a salt taste, because the camels are fond of grazing on salt herbs. In consequence of this it has an aperient effect, especially on the foreigner; but after a short time he gets accustomed to it, likes it very much, and suffers no ill effects. If the camel has been feeding for a long time on fragrant or strong-smelling herbs, the odor can be noticed in the milk. 551

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539 x
577 x

When thy good luck arrives, follow it,
As, of necessity, it soon will end.
When thy camels drip, milk them,
For the young knows not whose the milk will be.

● [234] Make full use of your opportunity! A camel will give milk only when her young catches hold of her teats with its lips and knocks its head against her loins. The young camel thus compels its mother to let her milk flow but does not itself know whether it will drink, because the man may push it away and milk for himself. He often milks three camels without the young having had a drink. It frequently happens that a man creates an opportunity for himself but is unable to utilize it. Push him aside and see what you can do!

Modesty and Self Reliance

1. *Ḳâl rumejzân at-tamîmi maṯâjel*
   al-ajjâm ṛums w-lâ bihen ḥejâl
2. *al-lejâli mâ ḫallen ḥada mâ čwaneh*
   w-lâ jeslam min low 'âtihen reǧǧâl
3. *fattelt lid-dinja ḥebâlen aǧerraha*
   w-ǧerratni-d-dinja biṛejr ḥebâl
4. *jâ žâ'ed beṛ-ṛell čann zâḥ ṛellak*
   w-jâ žâ'ed beš-šams ǧâk ṛelâl
5. *min ḳâl ana ḫejr al-mela' fâleh al-'ana'*
   w-min ḳâl ana ṛejmen tuṛejmeh reǧâl
6. *lâ tṣir marhâš low nešet ṭowleh*
   w-lâ tkun heǧ'en low bada lak al-ḥâl
7. *w-lâ jimteli ǧibben min aṭ-ṭell w-an-neda'*
   w-lâ jistuwi herǧen biṛejr fa'âl
8. *w-lâ jenḳol al-janḳûš raǧolen ḫajjer*
   w-lâ tâkol zibdet al-mḍâb reǧâl
9. *w-čam wâḥeden žâ'ed 'ala mâl abûh w-ǧeddeh*
   w-en zawwaleh rabb al-'âlemîn hw zâl.

1. Rumejzân at-Tamîmi told these parables:
   Secret are the days and yet not screened with curtains.
2. The nights do not omit anybody while burning with
   an iron red-hot,
   And nobody will save himself, however much he may
   try to surpass them.